

HONORING RACHEL WHEELER FOR HER TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Rachel Wheeler of Lighthouse Point, Florida.

At 11 years of age, Rachel has succeeded in raising over \$170,000 to build houses in Haiti. She first learned of the nation's extreme poverty 2 years ago after attending a presentation by Food for the Poor President and CEO Robin Mahfood. Rachel took immediate action and set a goal to build 13 homes, each costing \$2,600. Her campaign included chamber meeting announcements, television news appearances, a webpage, and advocacy throughout her school and neighborhood. Her zeal and devotion were met with widespread support, and she soon expanded her goal to a 25-residence village that includes larger homes. Now, Rachel would like to expand her project to include a school.

Though Rachel first launched her efforts prior to the earthquake that devastated the nation's capital, Port au Prince, those efforts are now even more invaluable in the tragedy's wake. Having spent much of my career fighting for the people of Haiti, I am both honored and humbled by Rachel's work. She has been able to garner coast-to-coast support and was named one of the country's top 10 youth volunteers in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards competition. We here in Washington can certainly learn from her tenacious spirit, prodigious initiative, and momentous impact. If Rachel can do it, why can't we?

Mr. Speaker, I am most impressed that despite the fact that this remarkable young lady has accomplished more in her 11 years than many do in their lifetimes, she readily acknowledges that her efforts have only just begun. Rachel's vision and success are a shining example not only to her peers, but to anyone who has ever questioned how much of a difference one individual can truly make. As I rise to honor her passion and dedication today, I look forward to the great things she will undoubtedly accomplish in the future.

BREANNA ANDREWS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breanna Andrews for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Breanna Andrews is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breanna Andrews is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Breanna Andrews for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATION CAREER OF HOWARD BERGER

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Howard Berger, Superintendent of the Tulare Joint Union High School District, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Howard spent his entire career teaching and guiding high schools in Tulare. His awards and accomplishments are so numerous that there is not enough time today to list them. What I can say is that for the people of Tulare there is no need for a list. Anyone who knows Howard also knows that he is a Tulare institution.

After graduating from California State University, Hayward in 1968, Howard began his teaching career in Tulare County. Howard admits that he only intended to spend a year at Tulare Union High School teaching Social Studies. Fortunately for students and parents that school year stretched to 1983. Howard has said that what kept him in Tulare was the great community spirit and commitment to education of its residents. During 1972–1973, Howard also taught Social Studies and English at Cherry Avenue Middle School.

In 1975, Howard began his distinguished career as an academic administrator, becoming Chair of the Social Studies Department at Tulare Union High School. Further success followed like clockwork. In 1986, Howard was named Assistant Principal at Tulare Western High School and in 1989 he was selected Principal at Tulare Union High School. In 2006, Howard had the honor of being named Superintendent of the Tulare Joint Union High School District. Under his leadership, Tulare opened a third high school, Mission Oak, a milestone in Tulare history. Mission Oak High School will see its first graduating class this year.

During his time as Principal and Superintendent, there were numerous accomplishments, honors and awards reflecting Howard's leadership of Tulare high schools. Recognition came from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the State of California, the federal government, and national education associations, including a Bill & Melinda Gates grant to participate in a national educational study.

Howard's career as Principal and Superintendent will be remembered as an important chapter in Tulare County history. What should also be remembered was that Howard was first and foremost a teacher. As he has said, "I think in my whole career the experience I've enjoyed the most was teaching. You see immediately the impact you've had."

For 43 years, the citizens of Tulare have had the privilege of Howard teaching and guiding their students. Forty-three years is a long time. In Howard's office there is also a

43-year-old Fisher 150 record player that he bought with his first paycheck from the school district. Like the record player, many changes have occurred in Tulare, the State of California, and the nation. Howard successfully steered Tulare high schools through them all. It is hard to imagine Tulare schools without Howard. As he enjoys his retirement, I hope Howard will also have time to reflect on his legacy and know that he had a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of high school students and their families.

IN HONOR OF BOB GRIFFITH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Griffith who is retiring as the longest ever serving President of Woods Services in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Woods Services, located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania is a facility that provides a home environment for people with developmental disabilities, challenging behaviors and other special needs. Their approach is unique and their philosophy one of inclusion and caring. For nearly a century, they have held true to its original mission, "To help each individual reach his or her highest level of achievement, whatever it may be."

For Woods and many of the people it serves this mission would not have been become a reality without the steady leadership of Robert Griffith.

Robert has been an advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities for nearly 35 years. During his tenure at Woods, both the physical facility and his positive impact on the community have grown immensely.

I am proud to honor the tenure of Robert Griffith and continuing to support his work for the most vulnerable among us.

HONORING JESSE T. REYNOLDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse T. Reynolds. Jesse's service to this Nation during World War II exemplified the highest characteristics of the service men and women who bled and died to preserve freedom.

Jesse was aboard the USS *MacDonough* when it was anchored in Pearl Harbor the morning of December 7, 1941. Jesse was among the first to spot the incoming Japanese aircraft that morning and informed the only officer on board of the pending attack. After Pearl Harbor, Jesse was assigned to the newly commissioned USS *Radford*, where he served in support of the Battle of Guadalcanal and in the Battle of Kula Gulf, where Jesse helped rescue the survivors of the USS *Helena*.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, I proudly ask you to